



The Department of Defense Energy Security Act Anecdotes & Quotes

"Unleash us from the tether of fuel."

-- **LTG James Mattis** – Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command
2003 while Commanding General, 1st Marine Division – Operation Iraqi Freedom

"Our dependence on fuel adds significant cost and puts U.S. soldiers and contractors at risk. Energy can be a matter of life and death and we have seen dramatically in Iraq and Afghanistan the cost of heavy reliance on fossil fuels."

-- **Dr. Dorothy Robyn** – Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment
January 29, 2010

"[Oil] is the umbilical cord and lifeline of the crusader community... Focus your operations on oil, especially in Iraq and the Gulf area, since this will cause them to die off."

-- **Osama bin Laden**

"The increasing number of convoys required to transport an ever increasing requirement for fossil fuels is itself a root cause of casualties, both wounded and killed in action. The use of IEDs and roadside bombs has been an especially effective means to disable friendly fighting forces by disrupting their supply of energy... Game-changing strategies for reducing this casualty rate rests on several means for reducing fossil fuel dependence, thus reducing the need for fuel convoys. These include widespread and aggressive conservation techniques; the use of renewable resources, in particular, solar and wind energy within the theater... Beyond sustainability and economics, this study demonstrates that the development and use of alternative energy can be a direct cause for reductions in wartime casualties"

-- 2009 Deloitte Report entitled *"Energy Security: America's Best Defense"*



“We're looking hard at the use of renewable energy in planes and ships and we're also looking at ways to become more energy efficient across the departments to reduce costs.”

-- Ms. Christine Fox – Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation for DoD
February 4, 2010 – Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee

“In 2008, we sent \$386 billion overseas to pay for oil – much of it going to nations that wish us harm. This is an unprecedented and unsustainable transfer of wealth to other nations. It puts us in the untenable position of funding both sides of the conflict and directly undermines our fight against terror.”

-- VADM Dennis McGinn (RET) – Former Deputy Chief of Naval Warfare Requirements & Programs
July 30, 2009 – Testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

“Operations suffer from unnecessarily high, and growing, battlespace fuel demand which degrades capability, increases force balance problems, exposes support operations to greater risk than necessary, and increases life-cycle operations and support costs.”

-- Gen. Michael P.C. Carns, USAF (RET) and Dr. James Schlesinger
February 2008 – Defense Science Board Report “More Fight – Less Fuel”

“The Taliban cannot produce electricity. They can do a lot of other things, but they can't produce electricity. Only the Afghan government can. And, again, that would be quite significant.”

-- General David Petraeus – Commanding General of U.S. Central Command
& Nominee for Commanding General of NATO-ISAF
February 16, 2010 – Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee

“Future military efforts to secure the oil supply pose tremendous challenges due to the number of potential crisis areas... Economic stagnation or catastrophe lurk close at hand, to be triggered by another embargo, collapse of the Saudi monarchy, or civil disorder in any of a dozen nations.”

-- Lt Col John M. Amidon, USAF
August 31, 2005 – Article in Joint Forces Quarterly entitled “America’s Strategic Imperative”



“[T]he U.S. military's high rate of fuel use made it especially vulnerable in Afghanistan, which is essentially served by only two convoy routes -- routes that are routinely targeted for roadside bomb attacks... In fact, increased use of convoys to transport fuel and water -- which account for about 80 percent of the weight of everything the U.S. takes to war -- was a root cause of U.S. casualties.”

-- Reuters *“Pentagon Could Save Lives by Cutting Fuel Use”* citing Gen. Charles Wald, USAF (Ret)
November 11, 2009

“U.S. Soldiers and Marines, meanwhile, were getting a hard lesson in the dangers of energy insecurity on the battlefield, where attacks on supply convoys in Afghanistan and Iraq inflicted heavy casualties.”

-- Suzanne Goldenberg from The Guardian, *“Pentagon to Rank Global Warming as Destabilising Force”*
January 31, 2010

Energy has the potential to be either an “asymmetric vulnerability” or a “force multiplier.”

-- Ms. Amanda Dory – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy
March 11, 2010 – Speech to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

“There has been a significant effort which has reduced very substantially, actually, what we've needed for the cooling and heating of our workplaces and living places [in theater]. And that is sometimes as simple as pumping extra insulation into the roof and walls of these fairly rudimentary temporary buildings that we have, sometimes even the tents. And it's interesting, because we were exchanging e-mails today with an individual who's involved in that effort, and we believe there have been actually billions of dollars of savings in this effort, if you look at what we did in Iraq first in that regard, and have now been pursuing in Afghanistan.”

-- General David Petraeus – Commanding General of U.S. Central Command
& Nominee for Commanding General of NATO-ISAF
February 16, 2010 – Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee